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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,341	04/12/2004	Brian Vicich	80505.22	3122

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EXAMINER	
HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/822,341	VICICH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Briggitte R. Hammond	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 20-57 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 20-57 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/12/05 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/12/05
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 22, 38 and 41-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 22 recites the limitation "the first and second groups of electically conducting members contacts" in line 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Regarding claim 38, claim 38 is unclear to the Examiner. In claim 38 is the "a plurality of fingers" a different set of fingers plurality from claim 20.

Regarding claim 41, it is unclear to the Examiner how the "each of the plurality of connection portions corresponds to one of the plurality of connection portions". Therefore, that portion of the claim was not examined in view of art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20,21, 24, 25, 36, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yagi et al. 6,019,616. Regarding claim 1 , Yagi et al. discloses an electrical connector, comprising: a plurality of contacts 3; a first electrically conducting plate 4a (see attachment of fig. 1), a second electrically conducting plate 4b positioned opposite to and oriented substantially in parallel with the first electrically conducting plate; wherein the first and the second electrically conducting plates each include a plurality of fingers 9 disposed therein and each contact of the electrical connector corresponds to one of the plurality of fingers of the first and the second electrically conducting plates.

Regarding claim 21, the plurality of contacts are arranged in two rows substantially parallel to one of the plates.

Regarding claims 24 & 25, each of the plates are connected/connectable to ground.

Regarding claim 36, the contacts are adapted to be coupled to a printed circuit board.

Regarding claim 38, the plurality of fingers are arranged to contact a surface of the one of the at least two electrically conductive plates so as to connect the first group of contacts to the respective one of the first and second electrically conductive plates.

Regarding claim 39, the connector comprises a housing 12 with the first and second plates disposed on opposite outer surfaces.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22, 23, 26-35,37 and 40-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagi et al. in view of Korsunsky 6,039,583. Regarding claim 41 (as best understood) 28 and 29, Yagi et al. discloses an electrical connector comprising conducting members 3, at least one conducting plate 4a and a plurality of connection portions 9. Yagi et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the conducting members being selectable to be or not to be connected to the conducting plate. However, Korsunsky discloses connector comprising conducting members 50 and at least one conducting plate 60. The conducting members being capable of being selected or not selected to the conducting plate 60 (because of the plate 60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Yagi et al. by providing the conducting members with the capability of being selected or not selected to be electrically connected to the conducting plate for easy adaptability to achieve various signal connections as taught by Korsunsky.

Regarding claims 26 and 42, Yagi et al. discloses the plurality of connection portions that electrically connect the at least one electrically conducting plate to the first

group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are arranged to be in physical contact with each of the at least one electrically conducting plate and the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Regarding claims 27 and 43, Yagi et al. discloses the plurality of connection portions 9 are fingers disposed on opposite surfaces of the housing.

Regarding claim 44, Yagi et al. discloses at least one conducting member of the first group is adjacent to at least one conducting member of the second group.

Regarding claim 45, Yagi et al. discloses the plurality of connection portions are arranged along a row that is substantially parallel to the row of the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Regarding claims 22 and 46, Yagi et al. discloses another electrically conducting plate, wherein the plurality of electrically conducting members 3 are arranged in two rows which are substantially parallel to a respective one of the electrically conducting plates.

Regarding claims 23 & 47, Yagi et al. discloses a first portion 3b of each of the electrically conducting members is located between the two electrically conducting plates and a second portion 3c of at least the first group of electrically conducting members is located outside of a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Regarding claim 30, Yagi et al. discloses each of the first and second plurality of fingers are arranged along each of two different rows.

Regarding claim 31, Yagi et al. discloses each of the first and second plurality of fingers are arranged along each of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Regarding claims 32-34, Yagi et al. discloses (fig 1) the first plurality of fingers that electrically connect a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates to a corresponding one of the plurality of contacts are bent towards the corresponding one of the plurality of contacts to make electrical contact with a ground potential to produce a pattern.

Regarding claims 35, Yagi et al. discloses in the first group of the plurality of contacts, a portion of each of the first group of the plurality of contacts is in physical contact with a portion of the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Regarding claims 37, Yagi et al. discloses the second group of contacts which are not electrically connected to either of the at least two electrically conductive plates are "arranged" to transmit signals through the connector.

Regarding claims 40, Yagi et al. discloses the first group of contacts are electrically connected to the respective one of the first and second electrically conductive plates at an outer surface of an insulated housing 12.

Regarding claim 48, Yagi et al. discloses each of the electrically conducting plates is electrically connectable to a ground potential.

Regarding claim 49, Yagi et al. discloses each of the electrically conducting plates is electrically connected to a ground potential.

Regarding claim 50, Yagi et al. discloses the plurality of connection portions 9 are part of the at least one electrically conducting plate 4.

Regarding claim 51, Yagi et al. discloses said plurality of connection portions 9 that electrically connect the at least one electrically conducting plate to the first group of electrically conducting members are bent towards the plurality of electrically conducting members to make electrical contact with a ground potential.

Regarding claim 52, Korsunsky discloses the plurality of connection portions are adapted to be selectively bent inwardly towards the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Regarding claim 53, Korsunsky discloses that a plurality of connection portions can be selectively bent away from the at least one electrically conducting plate to produce a customized pattern of grounded electrical contacts.

Regarding claim 54, the electrically conducting members are adapted to be coupled to the surface of a printed circuit board.

Regarding claim 55, the second group of electrically conducting members which are not electrically connected to the at least one electrically conductive plate is arranged to transmit signals through the connector.

Regarding claim 56, Yagi et al discloses an insulated housing 12, wherein the at least one conductive plate is disposed on an outer surface of the insulated housing.

Regarding claim 57, Yagi et al discloses the first group of electrically conducting members are electrically connected to the at least one electrically conductive plate at an outer surface of the insulated housing.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Briggitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Briggitte Hammond

Briggitte R. Hammond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

December 21, 2005